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GB A 2037555 GB 0891223 GB 0828392
GB 0417471 EP A 0017498

(58) Field of search

A1E

Selected US specifications from IPC sub-class A01G

(54) Collapsible cloche

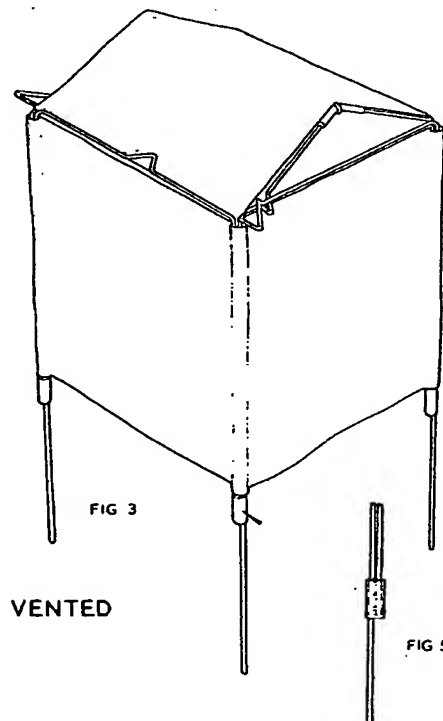
(57) An individual cloche consisting of a square body with integral lid which can be folded down flat for storage without dismantling.

The Doubled Hinged lid providing three positions as follows:—

CLOSED: For harsh conditions

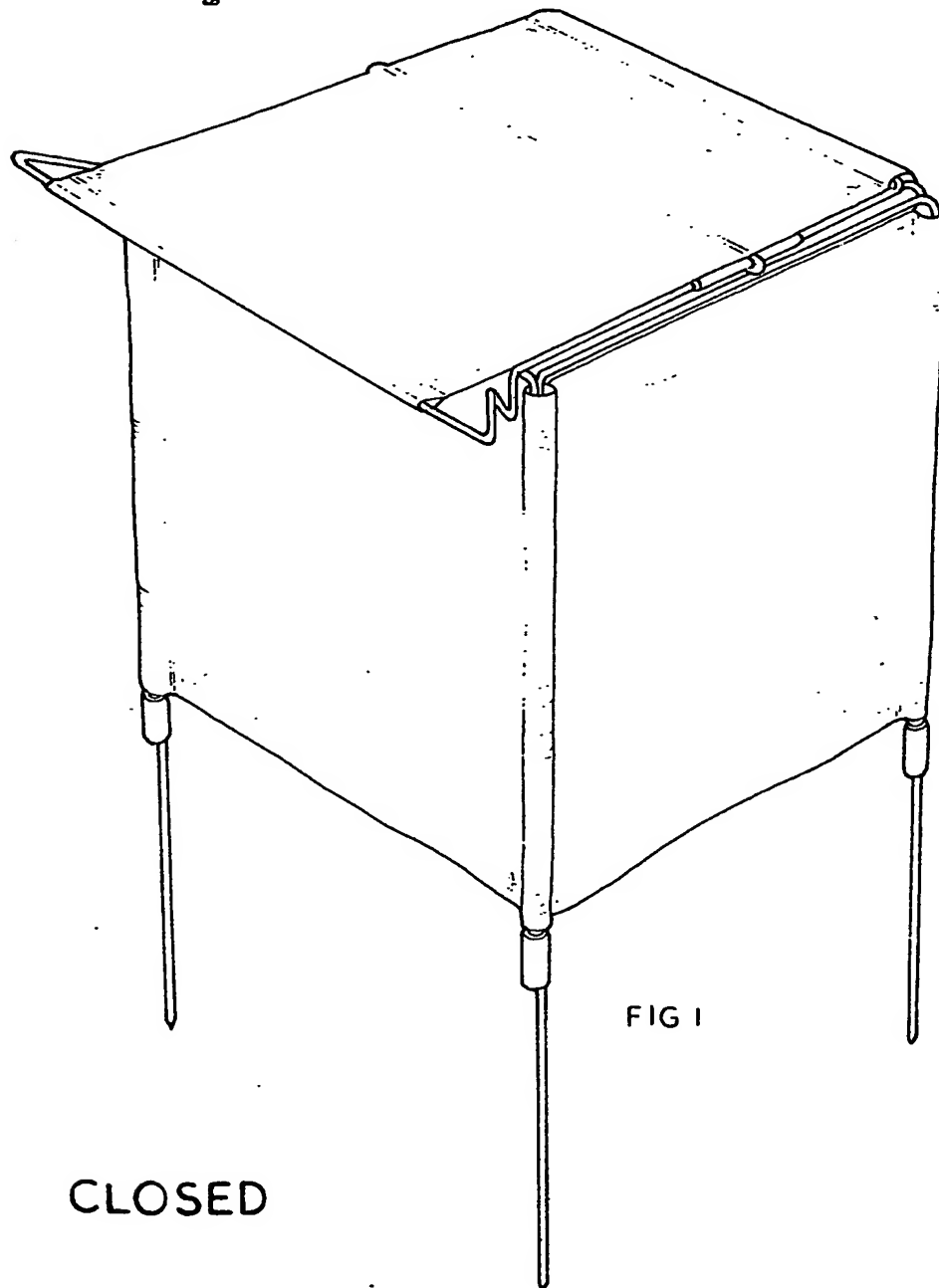
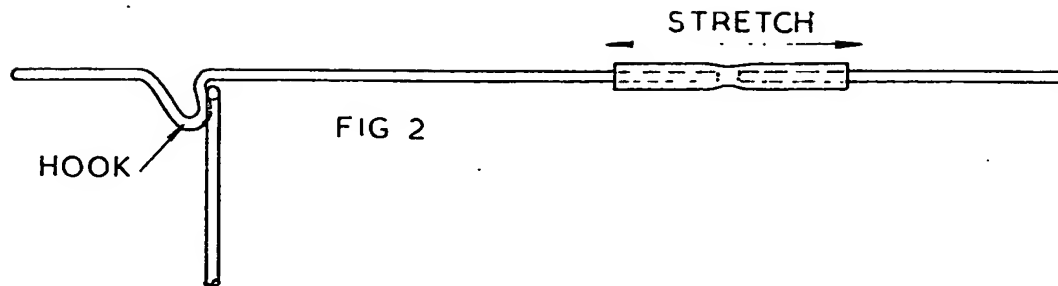
VENTED: For free air circulation.

OPEN: For watering and inspection purposes. See Figure 3.

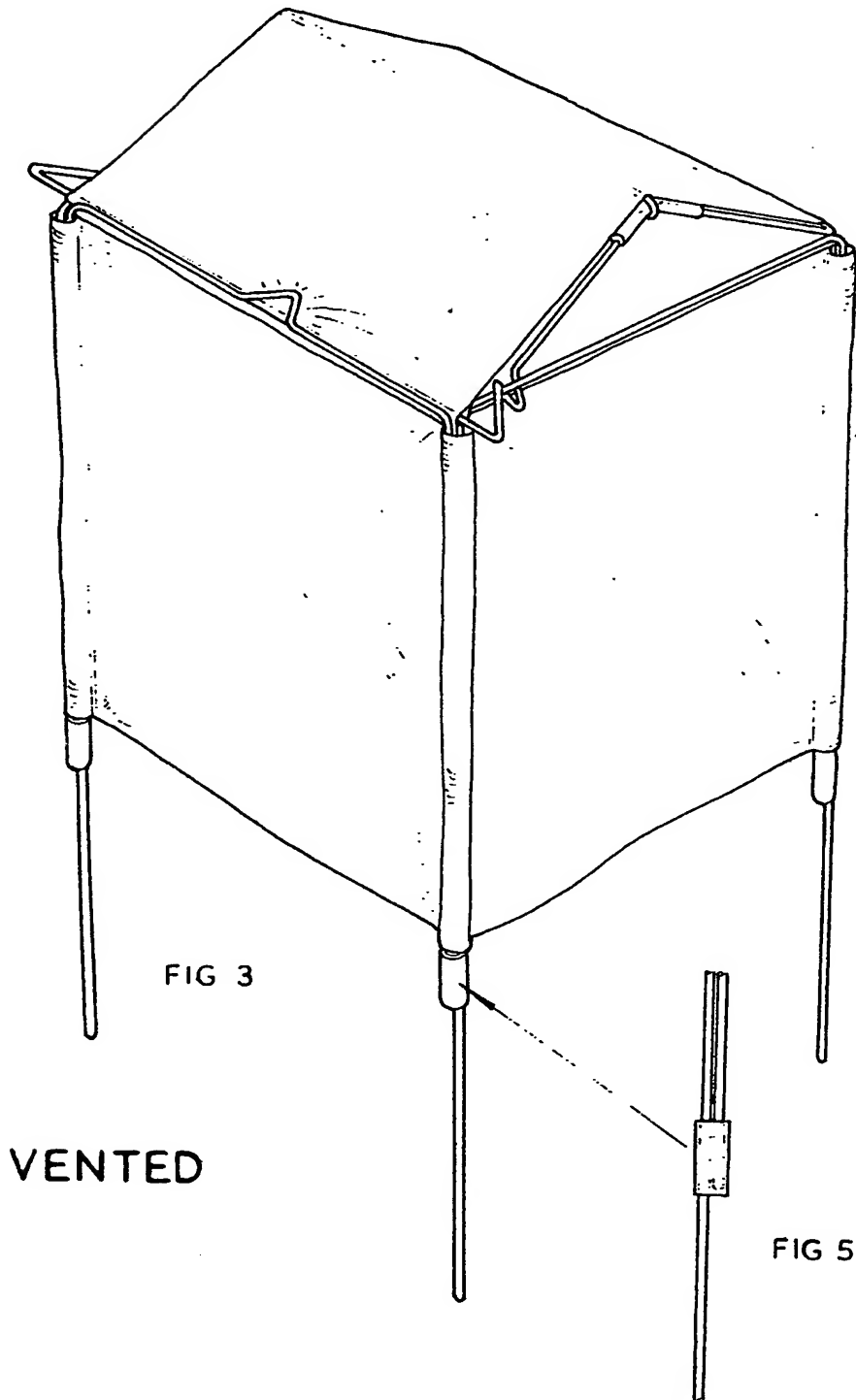
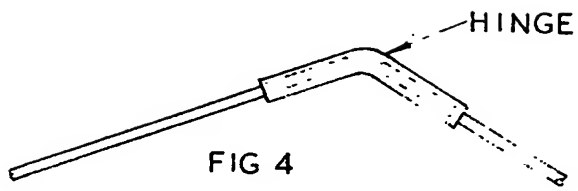


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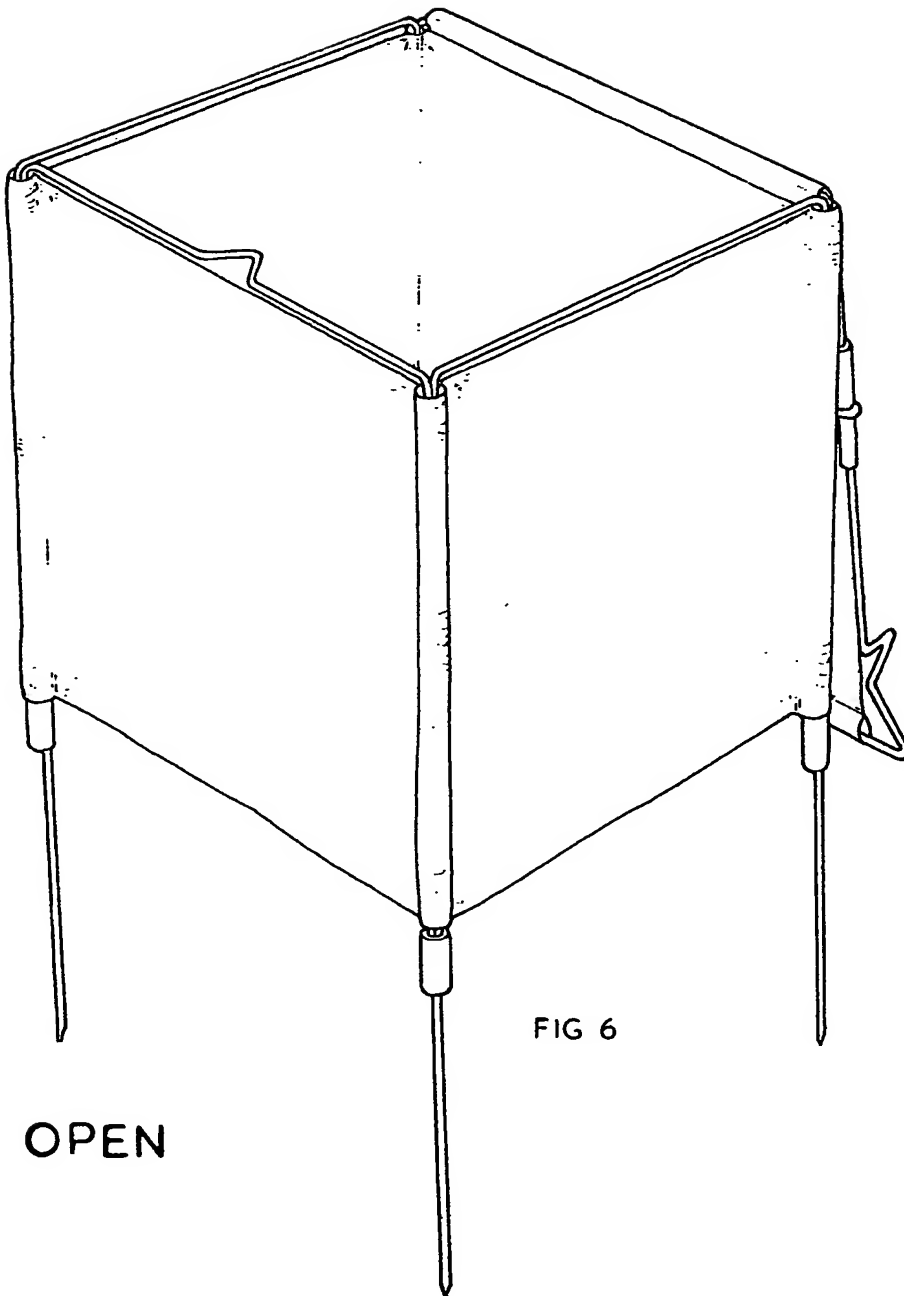


FIG 6

OPEN

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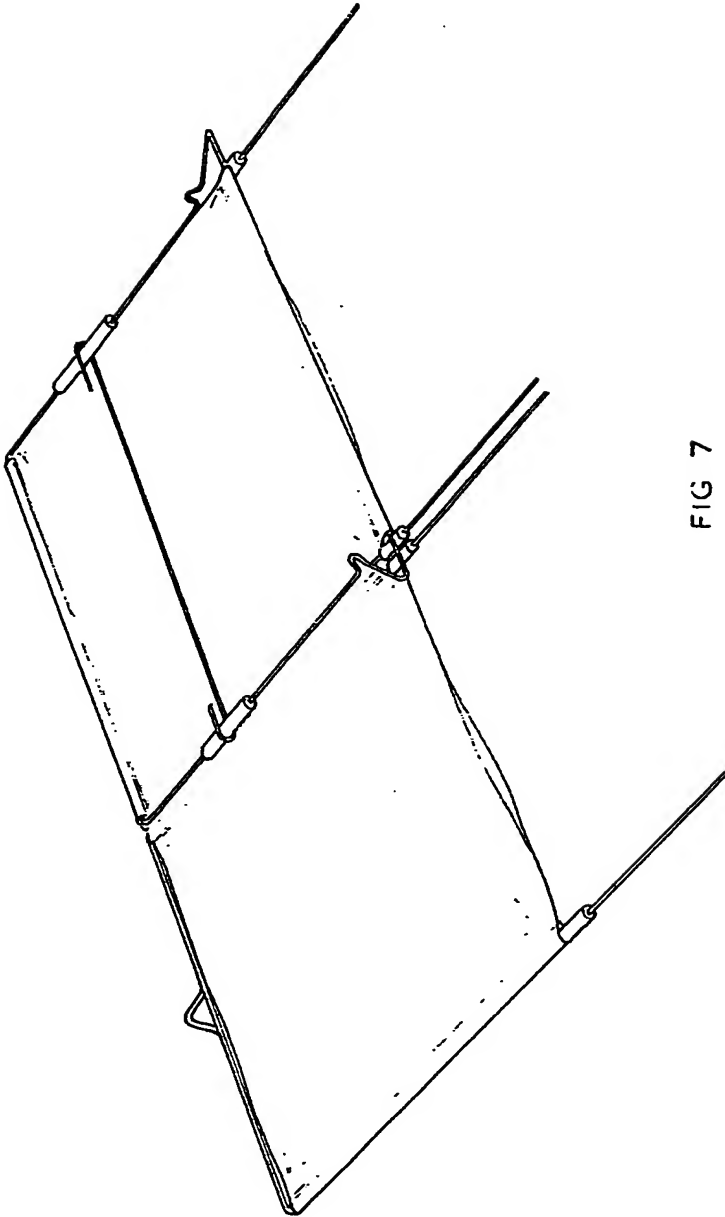
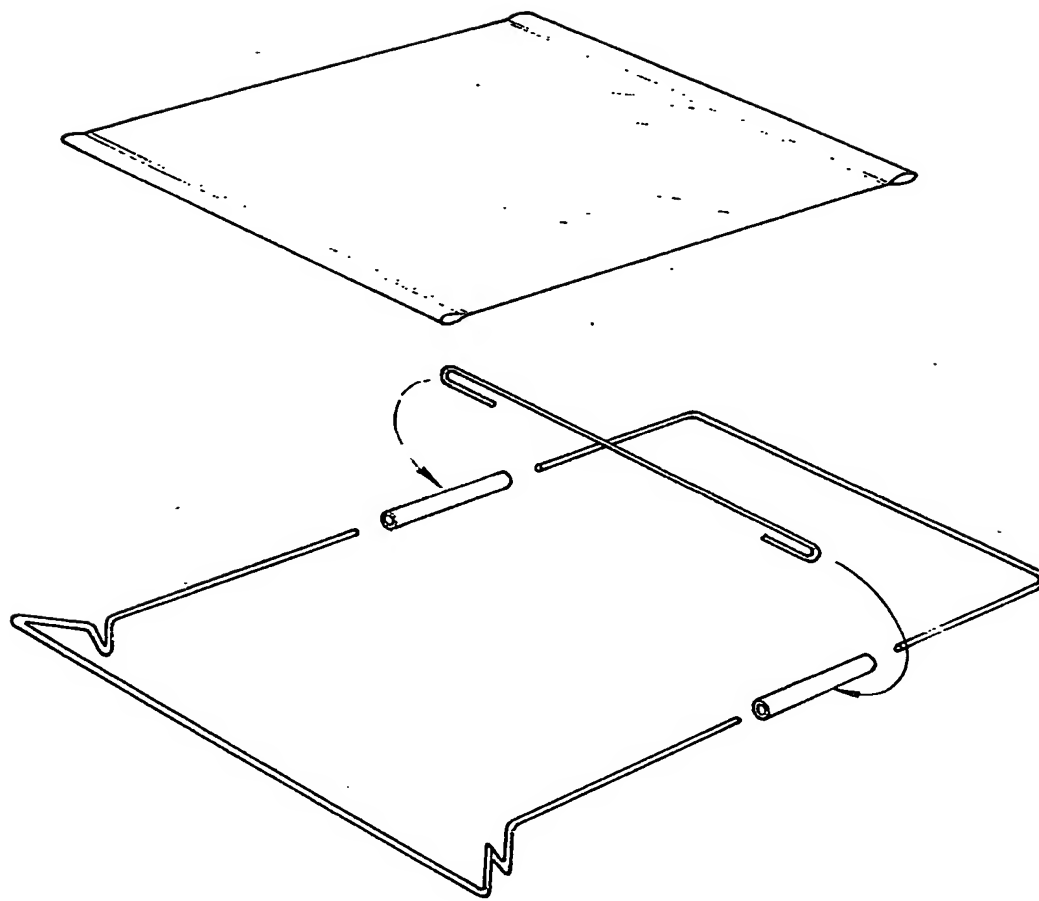


FIG 7
COLLAPSED

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LID

FIG 8

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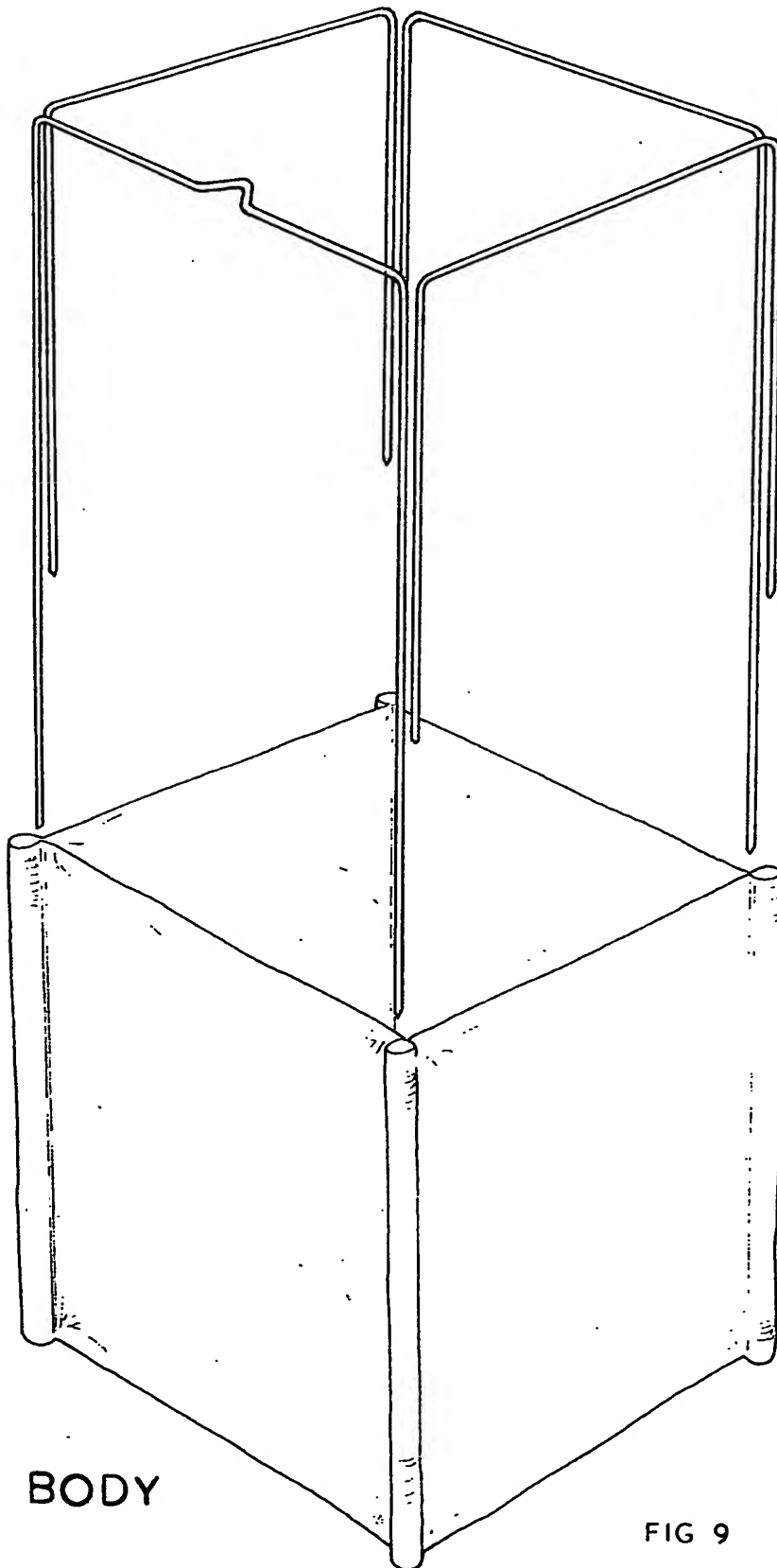


FIG 9

SPECIFICATION

Collapsible cloche

- 5 1. This invention relates to a Collapsible Cloche.
 2. Cloches are available in various forms to provide protection for plants from harsh weather conditions and also provide concentrated heat to promote the growth of certain plants and vegetables.
 10 3. Cloches are usually assembled in Kit Form or are one piece rigid constructions which occupy space when not in use.
 4. They usually have to be removed from the ground to allow for watering of the plants and most have separate end pieces which are difficult to seal against the main body of the Cloche.
 15 5. According to the present invention, which is an individual Cloche, no assembly is required as the assembly hinges out to allow instant erection from its flat pack form.
 20 6. A specific embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:—
 Figure 1: Shows the Cloche in its closed position.
 25 For maximum protection against harsh conditions.
 Figure 3: Shows the Cloche in its vented position. To provide good air circulation.
 Figure 6: Shows the Cloche in its open position. To allow for watering or inspection of the plant, without removal of the Cloche from the ground.
 30 Figure 7: Shows the Cloche folded down in its flat form for storage.
 Referring to Figure 9 the Cloche comprises of a U.V. stabilised polythene body with welded corner seams to provide pockets for the PVC coated steel frames to hinge in.
 35 The lid is of a similar construction but with the addition of Silicone rubber tube hinges which perform two functions as follows:—
 40 Function 1: Is to provide a flexible hinge for the lid, to allow the "vented" position to be achieved.
 Figure 4: Showing flexible position.
 Function 2: Is to provide a tension spring action to retain the lid in the "closed" position.
 45 Figure 2: A latch arrangement is provided to secure the lid in the "vented" position.
 In order to prevent the Polythene body from sliding down the steel framework, plastic or silicone rubber tubing is utilised to lock the frames together and act as stops. See Figure 5.
 50 After use, the Cloche can be collapsed down to its flat form for storage.

CLAIMS

1. A Collapsible Cloche comprising of a body with
 55 hinged lid designed for instant erection to its finished form, with no prior assembly.
 The Cloche to allow for ventilation, watering and inspection of the plant(s) without removal of the Cloche from the soil and be stored away in a flat form after use.
 60 2. A Collapsible Cloche as claimed in Claim 1 wherein means are provided for secondary hinging of the lid to give an apex form for venting.
 3. A Collapsible Cloche as claimed in Claim 1 or
 65 Claim 2 wherein a flexible secondary hinge is provided

to also act as a means of securing the lid in a "closed" position.

4. A Collapsible Cloche as claimed in Claim 2 or Claim 3 wherein a latch arrangement is provided to
 70 secure the hinged lid in the "vented" position.
 5. A Collapsible Cloche substantially as described herein with reference to figures 1 — 9 of the accompanying drawings.

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